Dear Parents,

I write this as my last eNewsletter as Principal at Walters Road. The last four and a half years have gone so fast and I only need to look at my son Noah and look at him as he was born in the first term I started here.

The time has gone extremely quickly and the school has become the school of choice in our community.

In the time I have been here we as a school have achieved many things:

- Our commitment to quality teaching and learning has greatly increased with identified programs and professional learning.
- Implementation of new curriculums.
- Implementation of the SENTRAL technology program.
- B Block classrooms were upgraded.
- C Block classrooms were upgraded.
- E Block classrooms were upgraded.
- F Block classrooms were upgraded.
- An additional computer lab has been installed.
- All classrooms now have Interactive Whiteboards.
- A mobile lab for Stage 3 has been purchased.
- We have grown 3 classes in my time.
- The K-2 Shelter has been upgraded.
- The pedestrian crossing has been upgraded.
- Our commitment to sporting opportunities has increased.
- We lost and then later regained our Deputy position.
- The 50th anniversary celebrations was held and we reconnected with many old friends.
- Ground improvements.
- Year 6 Farewell dress code was introduced.

And this list goes on.

This is an extremely busy school with many learning opportunities and life experiences provided. Our children simply shine on excursions and compliments are always given.

I leave with many memories and experiences and it has been a pleasure to be a part of so many people’s “story” during that time. I have worked with a very committed staff and had the pleasure to work with some of the Department of Education’s finest.

I wish you all the very best in the future and hope you make the new Principal just as welcome. They will continue our journey and add to what has already been achieved. I know my family are looking forward to our change and all it brings.

We feel so blessed to be given this opportunity and certainly hope our "seachange" is a success. I know I am looking forward to learning how to surf, young Noah is looking forward to “nippers” and he wants Santa to bring him a fishing rod.

Thank you all.

Phil Harris
Principal
From The Deputy

Hi Everyone,

What a wonderful legacy Mr Phil Harris has left for Walters Road Public School! It is with joy we wish him and his family well in their new adventure and with a little sadness as we lose a Principal with a mighty heart for educational leadership; he will be missed and remembered.

We have a very busy term and week ahead as usual for our Walters Road School community with Stage 1 looking forward to their incursion about worms – I wonder what amazing facts they will come home with! There is the ICAS English test next Tuesday and our very special Education Week Assembly and Open Day on Wednesday.

For this very special Education Week Assembly we have Mr Phil Harris making his last speech, a special guest Mr Ben Dowsley and our fabulous performance groups ready to entertain us with much dancing, singing and recorder playing! Please accept our invitation to this special day – the assembly will start at 10.00am and will be followed by our annual Book Fair in the Library, a BBQ and a cake stall. These last two events are very important fundraisers for our Year 6 Farewell so please support them as much as you can. Following a lunch you can share with your children there will be an opportunity to go into your child’s classroom for a short time to observe a small segment of classroom life. There will be an announcement after lunch at approx. 12.45pm that will signal the end of our classroom visits and parents will be able to go home and recover from the excitement of the day, and reflect on the educational journey their children are undertaking.

So a quick run-down of the day will look something like this:

10.00am Education Week Assembly (school gates will be open)

11.20am Lunch with the Book Fair, BBQ and Cake Stall running. Parents and family friends are welcome to have lunch with their children and support our Year 6 fundraising events

12.15 Classroom time

12.45 Our Open Day finishes and our normal school day continues.

We look forward to sharing this celebration of public education with you and your family and hope that it is a day where happy memories are made.

A reminder regarding school attendance – please ensure that your child attends school regularly. Sickness has played a large part of our absence rate so far this year and we have a higher percentage for student absences than in 2014. Teachers need a note explaining absences due to sickness and if sickness is lengthy or re-occurring a doctor’s certificate will be needed. Please be aware that the Department of Education will not approve or justify absences for holidays, shopping trips or absences due to family circumstances where reasonable alternate arrangements could be made to ensure student attendance at school. Regular attendance at school is essential for your child to achieve their educational best and increase their career and life options. Walters Road Public School and Department staff remain committed to working in partnership with you to address the issues which are preventing your child’s full participation at school. You may at times receive notes home regarding student absences (these are sent home weekly with 112 notes sent home last week) and it helps greatly when these notes are returned promptly with an explanation. Also you may receive a telephone call or a request for an interview at school with the Deputy or Relieving Principal. This will ensure communication is up to date and will help if our Home School Liaison Officer, Mr Gary Dunsmore, needs to further investigate student absences.

At Walters Road Public School we look forward to ensuring the best possible learning outcomes for all our students and with regular attendance and support from our school community this will be achievable. Thank you in advance for your support in this important area.

Mrs D. Walker
Deputy Principal

Stage Reports

Early Stage 1 News

Congratulations to all the students who received their Bronze and Silver awards last week.

This term, Mrs Cox will be doing the Kindergarten Relief from Face to Face (RFF) program. She will be teaching HSIE with all the classes. Please make her feel welcome.

KT’s assembly is next Thursday, 30th of July. It starts at 2:30pm in the school hall.

Events coming up:

- K-2 Athletics Carnival on Wednesday 5th of August. It starts at 9:30am on Douglas Grass. All students are to wear their team colours on the day. A separate letter with information has already been provided to parents and caregivers.
- Kindy Fizzics Science Incursion (Robotics) on Wednesday 26th August. The cost is $20 and a note has already been sent home. Final date for payment is Friday 21st August.

Mrs Y. Theodorou
Assistant Principal - Early Stage 1
KINDERGARTEN 2016

Enrolments for Kindergarten 2016 are now being accepted.

Children born between 1st August 2010 and 31st July 2011 are eligible to enrol. Parents wishing to enrol a child for school next year should contact the school office.

In order to receive the Application for Enrolment package, please bring with you - child’s birth certificate for proof of age, passports and visas for families born overseas and proof of residence (current council rate notice or lease agreement and 2 (two) utility bills e.g. gas or electricity account, plus mobile or landline telephone account).

You will also need to bring your child’s up to date immunisation certificate and, if your child suffers from asthma or an allergy, we will require a letter from your doctor providing us with information regarding the diagnosis.

Completed Application for Enrolment forms need to be finalised by 18th September 2015 so that pre enrolment interviews can be conducted before our Kindergarten Orientation sessions.

Stage 1 News

Bronze & Silver Assembly
Congratulations to all those children who were presented with their Bronze and/or Silver Award at last week’s special assembly. Some advance notice of our next special awards assembly in Term 4: the Gold Assembly for K-2 will be at 12.20pm, which is just after lunch. As always, invitations will go home at the end of term with the date and time.

Stage 1 Incursion
This week 1J, 2M, 1P and 2B participated in an Environmentors workshop run by Blacktown Council. The topic of the session was Worms, Worms, Worms and students were able to make many connections to their Science learning in Term 2. 2C, 1B and 1H will participate in their sessions next Tuesday. There is no cost for this incursion and we would like to thank Blacktown Council for sponsoring these valuable learning opportunities.

Mrs T. Harris
Assistant Principal – Stage 1

Stage 2 News

Silver Awards
Thank you to all parents and caregivers who attended the Silver Awards Assembly last Thursday and congratulations to all award recipients.

Excursion
Last Wednesday, the students in Stage 2 shared a wonderful learning day at Bicentennial Park. Thankfully the sun was shining as was the exemplary behaviour from all students. We look forward to making connections from the field study with our general classroom lessons.

CARES
A reminder that all Year 4 classes will be participating in the CARES Bicycle Safety Program. The program aims to improve basic road safety focusing on traffic rules. The program also includes discussions relating to protective clothing, bike maintenance, identifying road signs and the hazards associated with bike riding. Notes have been sent home and need to be returned to class teachers promptly.

This is a free event however we need assistance from parents for transport to and from the facility which is located near Wet N’ Wild. Notes were sent home in Week 1. Dates are as follows:-

- 4V – Wednesday 5th August (Week 4)
- 4J – Wednesday 12th August (Week 5)
- 4G – Thursday 13th August (Week 5)

Camp
There are no more places available for the camp. Additional information and payment schedule will follow shortly. There are only 84 sleeps until camp… can’t wait!

Mrs G .Grant
Assistant Principal - Stage 2

Stage 3 News

Open Day BBQ & Cake Stall
The next fundraiser for Year 6 will be the BBQ and Cake Stall taking place during Open Day on Wednesday 29th July. What better way to celebrate Open Day (and Mr Harris’s last day) than by purchasing a sausage on a roll, can of drink and/or piece of cake. Notes have gone home this week with the specific details. We hope to see many students and their families at our stalls in an effort to support our Year 6 students and teachers.

Maddfest
Stage 3 teachers and students will be visiting Evans High School on Monday 27th July to watch the matinee Maddfest performance. This is an annual event for Evans High and we are invited to attend at no cost to our students. We are looking forward to seeing the great performances, particularly from those former Walters Road students.
Year 6 Farewell Meeting
Thank you to the parents who attended the meeting last week. The next Year 6 parent meeting for the Year 6 Farewell will take place on Friday 11th September in Mrs Knox’s room starting at 3.30pm.

Mr M. Dyer
Assistant Principal - Stage 3

Library News
Time in the Library this week has been dedicated to perusing the items available at the Book Fair. Details regarding the Fair were given in an earlier newsletter, but may I remind parents that purchases can only be made during Week 3 (Education Week). Children have been told that they can purchase during their class visit to the Library, or whenever the Library is open, up until recess on Friday, July 31. Payment options include cash, cheque (made payable to Walters Road Public School), or via a phone or online payment (as per Book Club), details of which are on the wish list and the brochure that children received in the Library this week. I hope to see many of you visiting the Fair on Open Day (Wednesday) and I seek your assistance in keeping the Library and the Book Fair items pristine, by not bringing in food or drink. Thanks so much.

Regards,

Mrs L. Higgins
Teacher-Librarian

Office News

Reminders
Dear Parents, at this time of the year we send out a gentle reminder to update your child’s information. If any of your contact details have been changed or your emergency contact details have altered please send the changes in writing to the school office. It is very important for us to have all your information correct just in case your child is sick and we need to contact you urgently.

Also, please be aware of the payment office hours. EFTPOS transactions are only taken in the mornings until approximately 9.30am.

Thanking you.

Mrs K. Wright
School Administrative Manager

Whole School Photo
Our whole school photo is now available to order.

Please fill in the order form below if you would like a copy of this photograph. The cost per photo is $20.00. Please ensure that the correct money is placed in an envelope and returned with your order form as no change can be given. Payment can also be done online at www.theschoolphotographer.com.au, however if you choose to pay online you still need to return the completed order form to the front office.

Copies of these photographs are available for viewing in the front office.

Whole School Photo Order

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Woolworths Earn & Learn
This year we will again be participating in the Woolworths Earn & Learn program. Through this program we will be able to get new educational resources for our school.

From Wednesday 15th July to Tuesday 8th September, we are collecting Woolworths Earn & Learn Stickers. Place the Woolworths Earn & Learn Sticker Sheet or put the loose stickers into the collection box in the office & we will add them to a sticker sheet for you.

At the end of the promotion, we’ll be able to get some great new equipment. The range is extensive and offers lots of items ideal for our students – including resources for Maths, English, Science and some fantastic fun supplies for Art & Craft, Sport and for our Library.

Positive Behaviour Learning (P.B.L)

No PBL draws were done in Week 10 Term 2 or Week 1 Term 3 due to wet weather.
Join a Running
Event this Winter

Stay active this winter and sign up to one of these great running events.

Westlink M7 Blacktown Running Festival

Date: Sunday 26th July 2015
Events: Marathon, Half Marathon, 10km and 4km

www.wm7citiesmarathon.com.au

City 2 Surf

Date: Sunday 9 August 2015
Events: 14km point-to-point
Forget the stress of transport!
For $35pp we will provide bus transport to and from the event**

**Bus departing Blacktown Aquatic Centre,
limited spaces - bookings required, 9622 2279.

www.city2surf.com.au

Blacktown Leisure Centre Stanhope
Cnr Stanhope Parkway and Sentry Drive,
Stanhope Gardens NSW 2768
http://www.blcs.blacktown.nsw.gov.au
02 9421 2600

Blacktown Aquatic Centre
Boyd St Blacktown NSW 2148
http://www.blacktown.nsw.gov.au
02 9622 2279
WHAT IS THE NATIONAL DATA COLLECTION?

The Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (the national data collection) is an annual collection that counts the number of school students with disability and the level of reasonable educational adjustment they are provided with.

The national data collection will count students who have been identified as receiving an adjustment to address a disability under the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (the DDA). The DDA can be accessed from the ComLaw website at www.comlaw.gov.au.

WHAT IS THE BENEFIT FOR MY CHILD?

The aim of the national data collection is to collect better information about school students with disability in Australia.

This information will help teachers, principals, education authorities and families to better support students with disability to take part in school on the same basis as students without disability.

The national data collection is an opportunity for schools to review their learning and support systems and processes to continually improve education outcomes for their students with disability.

WHY IS THIS DATA BEING COLLECTED?

All schools across Australia collect information about students with disability. But the type of information currently collected varies between each state and territory and across government, Catholic and independent school sectors.

When implementing the national data collection, every school in Australia will use the same method to collect information. Therefore, a government school in suburban Sydney will collect and report data in the same way as a Catholic school in country Victoria and an independent school in the Northern Territory.

The information provided through the national data collection will enable all Australian governments to better target support and resources to benefit students with disability. The data will help schools to better support students with disability so that they have the same opportunities for a high quality education as students without disability.

WHAT ARE SCHOOLS REQUIRED TO DO FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITY?

All students are entitled to a quality learning experience at school.

Schools are required to make reasonable adjustments, where needed, to assist students with disability to access and participate in education free from discrimination and on the same basis as other students.

These responsibilities are outlined in the DDA and the Disability Standards for Education 2005 (the Standards). The Standards require educators, students, parents and others (e.g. allied health professionals) to work together so that students with disability can participate in education. The Standards can be accessed via the ComLaw website at www.comlaw.gov.au.

WHAT IS A REASONABLE ADJUSTMENT?

A reasonable adjustment is a measure or action taken to help a student with disability access and participate in education on the same basis as students without disability. Reasonable adjustments can be made across the whole school setting (e.g. ramps into school buildings). In the classroom (such as adapting class lessons) and at an individual student level (e.g. extra tuition for a student with learning difficulties).

WHAT INFORMATION WILL BE COLLECTED?

Every year your child’s school will collect the following information for each student with a disability:

- the student’s level of education (i.e. primary or secondary)
- the student’s level of adjustment
- the student’s broad type of disability.

The information collected by schools will be provided to all governments to inform policy and

National Parents/Carers Fact Sheet Version No. 3 as at April 2015
programme improvement for students with disability.

WHO WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL DATA COLLECTION?
The definition of disability for the national data collection is based on the broad definition under the DDA.

For the purposes of the national data collection, students with learning difficulties such as dyslexia or auditory processing disorder as well as chronic health conditions like epilepsy, diabetes or asthma, that require active monitoring by the school, may be included.

WHO WILL COLLECT INFORMATION FOR THE NATIONAL DATA COLLECTION?
Teachers and school staff will identify the number of students with disability in their school and the level of reasonable adjustment they are provided based on:

- consultation with parents and carers in the course of determining and providing reasonable adjustments
- the school team's observations and professional judgements
- any medical or other professional diagnosis
- other relevant information.

School principals are responsible for ensuring the information identified about each student is accurate.

HOW WILL MY CHILD'S PRIVACY BE PROTECTED?
Protecting the privacy and confidentiality of all students and their families is essential. Personal details such as student names or other identifying information will not be provided to local or federal education authorities.


IS THE NATIONAL DATA COLLECTION COMPULSORY?
All education ministers agreed to full implementation of the national data collection from 2015. This means that all schools must now collect and report information annually on the number of students with disability in their care and the level of adjustment provided to them.

Information about the arrangements that may apply to your school in relation to this data collection is available from your child’s school principal and the relevant education authority or association of independent schools.

Even if your child's information is not included in the national data collection, the school is still required to provide support to your child with education needs.

FURTHER INFORMATION
Contact your child’s school if you have further questions about the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability and how it may involve your child.


An e-learning resource about the Disability Standards for Education 2005 is freely available for the use of individuals, families and communities at http://resource.dse.theeducationinstitute.edu.au/.